



Lexicon

Newsletter for Adult Education Staff Development

SDI Pilots Bridges to Practice

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CONFERENCES

CAEAA-San Francisco,
January 19-21

CCAIE (Bay Section)-San
Lorenzo, January 29

CCAIE (North Coast)-
Napa Valley, February 25

Distance Learning 2000-
Mission Valley, San
Diego, February 28 -
March 1

***Happy Holidays
to our Friends
and Colleagues***

Learning disabilities is an umbrella term that describes a wide variety of disorders, including disorders in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language. Adults who have difficulties with listening, thinking, speaking, reading, or writing are likely to experience problems that significantly affect their academic achievement and their lives.

Varying estimates of the number of American adults with learning disabilities range from 3 to 15 percent of the general population. An even greater incidence of learning disabilities is likely to be found among the population of adults with low-level literacy skills. Research has yet to determine just what that proportion is; estimates range from 30 to 80 percent.

What is Bridges to Practice?

Bridges to Practice: A Research-based Guide for Literacy Practitioners Serving Adults with Learning Disabilities, developed through funding from the National Institute for Literacy, is intended to enhance the capacity of literacy service providers to identify, teach, and support adults with learning disabilities.

The use of the 5 guidebooks which comprise *Bridges to Practice* should increase practitioners' understanding of adults with disabilities-their strengths and challenges-and directly help literacy practitioners to:

- Empower learners with an understanding of their learning disabilities and civil rights;
- Collaborate with learners to select curriculum goals related to life needs (including how to advocate for civil rights);
- Construct learning partnerships with adults that result in the use of more successful instructional approaches, effective instructional adaptations, and appropriate accommodations;
- Develop and use community linkages to create and tap needed resources to enhance needed literacy services; and
- Develop an understanding of the need for reforming the system of private and public services for learners in our communities and developing plans for achieving change.

SDI Identifies 15 Pilot Agencies

In order to introduce *Bridges to Practice* to adult education agencies in California, the Staff Development has identified 15 pilot agencies, which will have an opportunity to incorporate the strategies suggested in *Bridges to Practice* in their programs and to receive targeted technical assistance and free materials.

The pilot programs for 1999-2000 are:
Elk Grove Adult School
Firebaugh Alternative and Community Education Center
Fresno Adult School
Glendale Community College
Hanford Adult School (cont. page 2)

**ONLINE RESOURCES
FOR
ADULT EDUCATORS**

Family Literacy Sites

Children's Literature Web Guide: "There are lots of stories available on the Internet to download. Some of them are from well-known books, other can be found only online." www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/stories.html

Helping Your Child Learn Geography: "With this book, we hope you, as parents, will get ideas for activities that will use your children's play to help them learn more geography--the study of the Earth. Most of the suggestions in this book are geared to children from 5 to 10 years of age. Keep in mind, however, that youngsters vary widely in their development, and others--younger and older--may find the activities appropriate." www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Geography

Better Kid Care: Reading Aloud: "Reading aloud to the children in your care can be the best time of day. Sharing a good story book is very rewarding. You can enjoy reading aloud even more if you..." www.nncc.org/Literacy/better.read.aloud.html

The above sites do not necessarily represent the views of SDI.

1998-99 Program of Excellence Alhambra Adult Education Parent Education Program and Family Literacy

Family literacy helps strengthen the family by bringing parents and children together as they learn. It is based on the "simple", but powerful premise that adult and children can learn together and enhance each other's lives. The Alhambra Adult Education program is built on the concept that the better prepared children are for school, the better they will do in school; that learning, particularly language skills, is a crucial "family affair." The Parent Education Distance Learning Program incorporates into each of its 150 plus packets an age appropriate story book that the

parents can read to/with the child along with an activity that helps to teach the child specific skills. This reading/activity time helps to develop confidence in parent's abilities to guide their children in preparation for successful school experiences and provides them access to quality early childhood reading material. This special time for parent and child gives both the opportunity to work together in a one on one learning environment with materials necessary for the development of learning skills.

Contact Joyce Moore, Principal for more information at (626) 572-2209.

Family Literacy Workshops Available Through SDI

The following workshops, developed for Family Literacy programs, are offered by SDI. If you wish to have one or both of these offerings at your site, contact SDI or your local California Regional Resource Center.

Making the Connection: Children's Books, Adult Learners and Family Literacy: Children's books, when selected carefully and used effectively, are powerful tools and excellent vehicles for building family literacy. Teachers will get practical, hands-on experience with using children's books

to develop adult-appropriate activities.

Introducing Family Literacy: Program planners preparing to begin family literacy efforts will benefit from this workshop, which provides a brief overview of program models and helps participants lay a solid family literacy foundation. The adult literacy instructor will learn to help learners through children's books to develop skills and build self-esteem. Teachers will develop their own skills to use children's books with adult learners.

(Also online at www.sdi.ca.gov)

Bridges to Practice (continued)

LAUSD/Division of Adult and Career Education
Lucerne Valley Adult School
Manteca Adult School
Milpitas Adult Education Program
Mt. Diablo Adult Education
Napa Valley Adult School
San Bernardino Adult School
Santa Clara Adult Education
Vallejo Adult School
Vista Adult School

Teams comprised of an admin-

istrator and two teachers from each of these sites recently attended a two day training in Los Angeles, where they were trained to incorporate the *Bridges to Practice* methods into the intake, screening, and instructional practices of the school. A second meeting will be held in March, in San Francisco.

Workshops developed from the successful experiences of these pilot programs will be offered in the fall of 2000.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS News



Family Literacy

The California Regional Resource Centers have a wealth of information and resources that can be accessed by visiting the centers. Here are a few of the "hidden treasures" at the centers:

Baldwin Park: The Baldwin Park Regional Resource Center has a wide selection of Family Literacy resource materials. Included in our current library are training videos, reference books, and investigative statistics and research articles. We also have a library of books that are used in the classroom with accompanying lesson plans and visuals created by our teaching staff. They are great examples from which to draw ideas.

A valuable resource is the P.A.R.E.N.T.S. Curriculum Guide that instructors can use to present lessons using children's literature. It offers lesson plans, points for discussion, surveys, reading hints, and instructions for games that can be used in a family setting. A book list is provided with extra titles for suggested reading.

We recently added the New Book of Knowledge to our center and our teachers use them for parents to gain the experience of encyclopedia research. It is easy reading and perfect for children in higher-grade levels. In addition, illustrated children's dictionaries, fact books, and game books are available for parents to review in the classroom. We believe exposure is the key if they decide to invest in books as study aids.

We encourage our regional agencies to stop by.

San Jose: As a result of attending a Family Literacy workshop a few years ago, Bertie Wood enjoyed incorporating this topic in her High Intermediate ESL class. This year it was even easier because at the start of the year some of her students mentioned the desire to be able to read to their children. This request was a perfect "open door" to present Family Literacy. She began by showing and discussing the video "Read to Me Now". Then she introduced the children's picture book "At the Beach". After previewing the book well, there was the opportunity for the students to thoroughly practice reading it out loud working on expression and pronunciation. Finally each student was given the chance to check out a copy for a week with the requirement of reading it to a child. The students were enthusiastic with this assignment. Throughout the year she will revisit this topic by showing the other two videos, "Feed Me A Story" and "Read to Me" and by using other sets of children's picture books in creative ways. As the resource librarian at this site, she will highlight this topic for the other teachers by having a Family Literacy display in our library periodically.

Northern CA: Thinking of starting a Family Literacy Program or add it to your adult ed. classroom? Looking for ways to expand, improve or refresh your current program? The Northern California Literacy Resource Center is a great place to find ideas. We have materials such as P.A.R.E.N.T.S. This takes you through a step by step family literacy program, including topic and book suggestions. It is great for small group tutoring and classroom instruction and has been used successfully in a variety of literacy settings. Book sets are also available for classroom. Some great videos on reading to children are available too, including a real favorite

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS

<http://www.sdi.ca.gov/crrc>

Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education
13307 Francisquito
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
Contact: Margie Parulan
mparulan@bpace.k12.ca.us
(626)939-4281/FAX(626)939-4569

Los Angeles Mid-City ABE Ctr
1520 Cambria St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Judy Griffin
griff01@lausd.k12.ca.us
(213)483-5256/FAX(213)413-1356

Merced Adult School
50 East 20th Street
Mail: P.O. Box 3707
Merced, CA 95344-3707
Contact: Tina Fredette
tfredette@muhsd.k12.ca.us
(209)385-6545/FAX(209)385-6430

Metropolitan Adult Education Program
760 Hillsdale Avenue, Room 1
San Jose, CA 95136
Contact: Nancy Arnold
narnold@metroed.net
(408)723-6450/FAX(408)723-6449

Northern California Literacy Resource Center
420 East Laurel #B
Willows, CA 95988
Contact: Susan Domenighini
susandom@sunset.net
(530)934-9656/FAX(530)934-9657

Santa Ana College, School of Continuing Education
2900 W. Edinger
Santa Ana, CA 92704
Contact: Karen Dennis
kdennis@primenet.com
(714)564-5100/FAX(714)434-7920

Sacramento Regional Resource Center/
Sacramento City U.S.D.
331 J St., Suite 180
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Trish Kerns
tkerns@jps.net
(916)557-1150/FAX(916)557-1149

Sweetwater Regional Resource Center
Adult Resource Center
458 Moss Street
Chula Vista, CA 91911-2896
Contact: Alice Hurley
ahurley@sdcoe.k12.ca.
(619)691-5624/FAX (619)691-5447

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS News

Family Literacy (cont.)

Feed Me A Story, which is colorful, entertaining and informative. Additionally we have materials on funding families programs, working with local schools, and other administrative issues that come up. We have a great selection of children's books too, all of which have been used in family literacy programs in this state. The selection includes numerous sets of children's books that are perfect for a classroom setting. There are also a number of experienced family literacy providers in the North State, we'd be glad to get you in touch with someone who's been there to give you pointers, give us a call!

Sacramento: Family Literacy-

Need some suggestions on what kind of materials to use for your Family Literacy Programs? The Sacramento Regional Resource Center has a collection of children's books, Family Literacy videos/print materials, and Parenting print materials. Check out the complete listing on our website by clicking on Resources. Remember, we can mail all these materials to you at no charge. If you'd like to find some family literacy resources on the Internet, just click on www.sdi.ca.gov/www.html and you will see a listing of sites which John Burge and I have featured several times at our "www=we want winners/A Guide to Family Literacy Websites" workshop. If you are involved in a CBET program, and would like to contact other agencies to see what they are doing, call and ask us for a directory of CBET program coordinators. Some names may have changed since last year, but at

least it's a place to start!

Sweetwater: *Collaborations to Assist Families-* The Sweetwater Division of Adult Education and its Regional Resource Center staff is collaborating with its own secondary division and its four feeder elementary school districts to provide family literacy instruction utilizing CBET funding. The Regional Resource Center is providing leadership in curriculum development and staff development.

More than twenty-five classes are meeting at elementary schools and, more recently, on middle school campuses, and the number of classes continues to grow. A committee of adult education teachers and curriculum developers has compiled a binder of ESL lessons on topics appropriate to the focus of CBET: literacy development for both parents and school-age children, parenting skills, and literacy interactions between parent and child. The current focus for curriculum development is to develop lessons to assist middle school parents in becoming full partners in their child's education.

Staff development has been provided through workshops, through the Staff Development Institute's teacher training online module *Introducing Family Literacy to Adult Learners*, and through classroom observations.

Future plans include incorporating some form of distance learning and expanding networking meetings to include other agencies in San Diego County involved in CBET.

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CONGRATULATIONS

SDI is pleased to announce the promotion of Valerie Powell to the position of project specialist. Valerie began as staff secretary four years ago and has

steadily moved up through the ranks in this office. One of her duties will be to develop online training for adult educators. Congratulations!

Funded by the California Department of Education Youth, Adult and Alternative Educational Services Division through Federal Grant P.L. 100-297 Section 353. Trainings are conducted under the auspices of the Staff Development Institute and the California Regional Resource Centers.